

UNCLAS MAPUTO 001114

SIPDIS

FOR INL/AAE, DS DSS/IP/AF

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [SNAR](#) [KHIV](#) [MZ](#) [KCRM](#)

SUBJECT: STATE OF AFFAIRS OF MOZAMBICAN POLICE AND
PROMISING PROGRAMS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MOZAMBICAN LAW
ENFORCEMENT

1. SUMMARY. Over a period of three days, Ambassador and acting RSO met with the commissioner of the Mozambican national police (PRM), Miguel dos Santos, and the spokesperson of the PRM and head of the Community Policing Program, Nataniel Macama. Notable issues discussed included the state of crime in Mozambique, border security, activities at the police academy, community policing, and the effect of HIV/AIDS on the police force. Although positive programs are in place to strengthen police capacity, Mozambique lacks the resources necessary to adequately protect its borders and control crime. Cooperation between the USG and the PRM is good. END SUMMARY.

2. Major areas of criminal activity in Mozambique range from street crime, to drug use and smuggling, and poor monitoring of the use of Mozambique's dwindling natural resources. Hashish and marijuana are the two most common drugs moving through and in use in Mozambique (imported from east Asia). Due to porous and poorly controlled land and sea borders, control of trafficking in illegal drugs is difficult. Mozambique does not have the capacity or resources necessary to control its vast borders. Mozambique has 2700 km of seacoast but zero sea vessels to patrol this vast coastline. The PRM has developed a maritime police unit and has trained approximately 100 maritime police officers to date, but no resources have been made available to put these initial efforts into practice. The PRM is also unable to cope with the large amounts of illegal fishing and logging due to this same lack of resources.

3. The PRM has been successful, however, in combating street crime and drug use on the street, through the development of a Community Policing Program. This program was developed with the assistance of the German government to create a system similar to a neighborhood watch program. Trusted community leaders are elected to lead the community policing efforts in specific neighborhoods. These leaders discourage people in the community from committing crimes and report incidents to the police. The program empowers people in the community to take responsibility in their community, but it does not give them the authority to take matters into their own hands. Thus far, approximately 300 communities throughout Mozambique have joined this program. Statistically, street crime is on a decline in Maputo and in the rest of Mozambique, which has been attributed to this program. A specific example is an area in Maputo that used to be nicknamed "Colombia", for the high amount of illegal drug sales and use, which no longer carries this moniker due to the reduction of criminal activity.

4. The success of this program has been hindered by the lack of some critical elements necessary to communicate with the police when a crime occurs. Although community leaders are more involved with the police, many of these communities lack phones or other means of communication. Many times, a person is sent many kilometers to the nearest police station to report a crime. The US Department of State through the American Embassy Maputo and the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) office, and with the Assistance of the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), have proposed a community policing program in the form of equipping and training police officers on bicycles. This program, previously applied in Ghana, would allow the police easier access to reach out to the community and aid the communication process between the police and the community.

5. Combating HIV/AIDS is a looming challenge for Mozambique and the PRM does not escape this challenge. Thirty to forty police officers die monthly from complications related to HIV/AIDS. Yearly, the police force graduates 1000 new recruits, but loses 600 officers to HIV/AIDS. Although efforts have been made to combat the epidemic in the police force, resources are limited. Post has initiated plans to incorporate efforts to aid the PRM in combating HIV/AIDS in the PEPFAR strategic plan.

6. Both Commandant dos Santos and Mr. Macama were appreciative of the assistance that the US government has provided the PRM. Commandant dos Santos offered his continued support in ensuring the safety and security of the US mission and the fight against global terrorism.

LA LIME